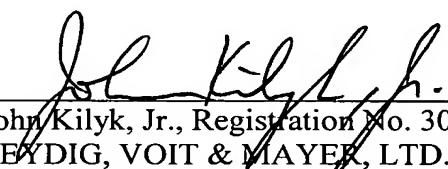


*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

The claims have been amended to place the claims in a format more consistent with U.S. patent practice and to reduce the number of claims so as to reduce the official filing fee. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to any appropriate subject matter, whether previously claimed or unclaimed, in this and/or related patent applications in accordance with U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been added by way of these specification and claim amendments. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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